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Serial No.: 09/484,865
Group Art Unit: 2127

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AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Please amend pending claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 15, 16, and 24 as indicated below. A complete listing of all claims in the application is as follows:

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1. (currently amended) A method for using a computer system for interacting with a processing system ~~to~~ for processing and programming a microdevice comprising the steps of:

providing processing and programming information ~~related to~~ for a microdevice as a task;

assembling the processing and programming information for the task in the computer system;

providing the processing and programming information for the task for off-line connection from the computer system to the processing system;

performing the task by the processing system independent of the computer system using the processing information to process the microdevice and using the programming information to program the microdevice, the processing and programming information obtained through the off-line connection;

developing return information resulting from the processing system using the processing information; and

returning the return information through the off-line connection to the computer system.

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2. (previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of:

providing a processing system including a programming system on-line with said computer system;

providing the processing and programming information for the task for on-line connection from the computer system to the processing system; and

performing the task by the processing system dependent on the computer system using processing and programming information obtained through the on-line connection.

Serial No.: 09/484,865
Group Art Unit: 2127

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of:

providing an operator mode for an operator to develop the processing and programming information;

using the processing information for the task in the operator mode from the computer to the processing system;

returning the return information in the operator mode through the off-line connection to the computer system; and

storing the return information in the computer system.

4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of:

providing an administrator mode for an administrator to develop the processing and programming information;

inputting the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode;

editing processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode; and

storing processing and programming information related to the microdevice for the processing system as the task in the administrator mode.

5. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of:
providing processing system setup and shutdown parameters;
providing processing system process-specific parameters;
sending processing system setup parameters to the processing system;
inputting the number of processed microdevices to be output from the processing system;

sending processing system process-specific parameters to the processing system;

controlling the handling of microdevices;

processing microdevices; and

sending processing system shutdown parameters to the processing system.

6. (original) The method as claimed in claim 5 including the steps of:

providing a number of microdevices;

determining the number of microdevices processed;

Serial No.: 09/484,865
Group Art Unit: 2127

determining the number of microdevices handled; and
developing statistics from the number of microdevices processed and handled.

7. (original) The method as claimed in claim 5 including the steps of:
serializing the microdevices; and
maintaining a log of the serialized microdevices.

8. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of:
combining a plurality of tasks to define a kit; and
performing the processing of a kit through the off-line connection.

9. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of:
providing microdevice information;
providing processing system setup parameters;
providing format information related to the off-line connection;
inputting the number of processed microdevices to be output from the processing system;
providing the processing system setup parameters and format to the processing system;
transferring the microdevice information from the computer to the processing system;
transferring the processing system format from the computer to the processing system;
processing the microdevices;
obtaining information from the processing of the microdevices; and
transferring the information from the processing of the microdevices.

10. (original) The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the step of:
transferring includes the use of a portable memory medium.

11. (original) The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the step of:
transferring includes the use of a direct communication connection.

12. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of
providing an administrator mode; and
protecting provision of the operator mode using a password input in the administrator mode.

Serial No.: 09/484,865
Group Art Unit: 2127

13. (currently amended) A method for using a computer system for interacting with a programmer/feeder system ~~to~~ for processing and programming a programmable microdevice comprising the steps of:

providing programming information related ~~to~~ for a programmable microdevice as a task;

assembling processing information and the programming information for the task in the computer system;

providing the processing and programming information for the task for off-line connection from the computer system to ~~the~~ a programming system in the programmer/feeder system;

performing the task by the programmer/feeder system independent of the computer system using the processing information to process the microdevice and using the programming information to program the microdevice, the processing and programming information obtained through the off-line connection;

developing return information resulting from the programmer/feeder system using the processing information; and

returning the return information through the off-line connection to the computer system.

14. (previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the steps of:

providing a processing and a programming system on-line with said computer system;

providing the processing and programming information for the task for on-line connection from the computer system to the programming system; and

performing the task by the programming system dependent on the computer system using programming information obtained through the on-line connection.

15. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the steps of:

providing an operator mode for an operator to develop the processing and programming information;

using the processing and programming information for the task in the operator mode from the computer to the processing system;

Serial No.: 09/484,865
Group Art Unit: 2127

returning the return information in the operator mode through the off-line connection to the computer system; and
storing the return information in the computer system.

16. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the steps of:

providing an administrator mode for an administrator to develop the processing and programming information;

inputting the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode;

editing the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode; and

storing the processing and programming information related to the programmable microdevice for the programmer/feeder system as the task in the administrator mode.

17. (original) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the steps of:
providing programmer/feeder system setup and shutdown parameters;
providing programmer/feeder system process-specific parameters;
sending programmer/feeder system setup parameters off-line to the programming system;
inputting the number of processed programmable microdevices to be output from the programmer/feeder system;
sending programmer/feeder system process-specific parameters to the programming system;
controlling the handling of programmable microdevices;
programming programmable microdevices; and
sending the programmer/feeder system shutdown parameters to the programming system.

18. (original) The method as claimed in claim 17 including the steps of:
providing a number of programmable microdevices;
determining the number of programmable microdevices processed;
determining the number of programmable microdevices handled; and

Serial No.: 09/484,865
Group Art Unit: 2127

developing statistics from the number of programmable microdevices processed and handled.

19. (original) The method as claimed in claim 17 including the steps of:
serializing the programmable microdevices; and
maintaining a log of the serialized programmable microdevices.

B1 sub c1 20. (original) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the steps of:
combining a plurality of tasks to define a kit; and
performing the programming of a kit through the off-line connection.

21. (original) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the steps of:
providing programmable microdevice information;
providing programmer/feeder system setup parameters;
providing format information related to the off-line connection;
inputting the number of processed programmable microdevices to be output from the programmer/feeder system;
providing the programmer/feeder system setup parameters and format to the programmer/feeder system;
transferring the programmable microdevice information from the computer to the processing system;
transferring the programmer/feeder system form from the computer to the programmer/feeder system;
processing the programmable microdevices;
obtaining information from the processing of the programmable microdevices; and
transferring the information from the programming of the programmable microdevices.

22. (original) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the step of:
transferring includes the use of a portable memory medium.

23. (original) The method as claimed in claim 22 wherein the step of:
transferring includes the use of a local area network connection.

Serial No.: 09/484,865
Group Art Unit: 2127

24. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the steps of:

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providing an administrator mode for an administrator to develop the processing and programming information; and
protecting provision of the an operator mode using a password input in the administrator mode.

25. (previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the step of:

providing information for affecting changes selected from a group consisting of software, firmware, and a combination thereof by using a portable memory medium.